

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 137882  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-05 SSO-00 /015 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:WLGALLAGHER:JG  
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:CASQUIRE  
S/CS:DHENSHAW

-----142154Z 068440 /75

O R 142120Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

UNCLAS STATE 137882

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES

SUBJECT: EXPORT OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM THE COOK ISLANDS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THAT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, BARBARA T. WILBUR IS NEAR DEATH AT DR. BRYCKS HOSPITAL IN RAROTONGA. THE FAMILY IS INTERESTED IN HAVING HER REMAINS CREMATED AND RETURNED TO MASSACHUSETTS SHOULD THE TOTAL COST OF PREPARING AND TRANSPORTING IT NOT EXCEED \$5000.

2. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THERE MAY NOT BE CREMATION NOR EMBALMING FACILITIES IN THE COOKS, WHICH COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS IN THE EXPORT OF THE REMAINS FROM THE COOKS. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED 1) TO CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE CREMATION AND EMBALMING FACILITIES IN RAROTONGA AND 2) IF NOT, ARE THERE PROCEDURES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES OF AN UNEMBALMED OR AN UNCREMATED BODY IN AUCKLAND? PRESUMABLY THE REMAINS WOULD THEN BE CREMATED  
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IN AUCKLAND AND SHIPPED TO MASSACHUSETTS. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE A BREAK DOWN OF THE COST FOR THE PREPARATION AND TRANSPORT OF THE CREMATED REMAINS TO BOSTON.

3. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO CONTACT NEW ZEALAND

AUTHORITIES IN THE COOK ISLANDS, APPRISE THEM OF THE  
SITUATION, AND ASK FOR THEIR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE  
IN THIS MATTER. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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